

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Paul Sherburne on November 30th, 2009.

The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 1, amend the final clause of the claim as follows

presenting the player with a chance to participate in the bonus activity at the altered odds, wherein ~~at least one of presenting the gaming activity, receiving the indication, receiving the identification, and executing the trade, and presenting the player with the chance~~ is implemented at least in part using a circuit in a gaming device.

In claim 18, amend the final clause of the claim as follows

executing the trade by accepting the trade value offered by the player and presenting the player with the increased chance of being awarded the bonus activity through increasing the odds of occurrence of the event in the play area during the primary gaming activity, wherein ~~at least one of receiving the indication, receiving the identification, and executing the trade~~ is implemented at least in part using a circuit in a gaming device.

In claim 28, amend the final clause of the claim as follows

surrendering the trade amount in return for receiving the increased odds of occurrence of the game event in the game grid during the standard mode of play that enables the bonus event, wherein ~~at least one of initiating~~

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the trade, identifying the trade amount, and surrendering the trade amount is implemented ~~at least in part using a circuit~~ in a gaming device.

In claim 31, amend the final line of the claim as follows

wherein the odds for the second occurrence of the game event are not increased based on the trade of gaming assets.

In claim 43, amend the final clause of the claim as follows

executing the trade by disallowing the increased chance of participating in the bonus event, and awarding the payout amount to the player, wherein ~~at least one of~~ awarding the increase, receiving the indication, and executing the trade is implemented ~~at least in part using a circuit~~ in a gaming device.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art of record when considered alone or in combination does not teach nor fairly suggest the exchange of player assets for the for a greater chance of acquiring a bonus qualifying outcome in a base game nor the exchange of a greater chance of acquiring a bonus qualifying outcome in a base game for additional player assets

The closest prior art of record teaches what is commonly know as a Double-or-Nothing feature wherein a player may wager their winnings from a previous game on a subsequent game, with the aspirations of doubling their winnings. In Double-or-Nothing the player sacrifices their game assets (winnings) for a bonus event juxtapose to the instant claimed invention wherein a player sacrifices their assets (potentially including

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game winnings) for a greater chance compared to normal of a qualifying game outcome occurring during play that would in turn provide a bonus game. Unlike a Double-or-Nothing arrangement there is no automatic qualification for bonus game based on the players traded assets in the instant invention.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ROBERT MOSSER whose telephone number is (571)272-4451. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-4:30 Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dmitry Suhol can be reached on (571) 272-4430. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Dmitry Suhol/
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/R. M./
Examiner, Art Unit 3714